

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 07011 111152Z

44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 L-03 H-03 STR-08

DRC-01 /126 W

----- 101883

P R 111108Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0762

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 7011

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, LA

SUBJECT: WEEKLY ECONOMIC SITUATION REPORT (SEPT 4-10, 1974)

1. TOTAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE SOLD THROUGH BANKS WEEK OF SEPT 2 WAS \$433,000 WHICH IS 47 PERCENT WEEKLY AVERAGE FORE PERIOD JAN-JUNE 1974

MAINTAINING LEVEL ESTABLISHED SINCE AUG 4.

2. PARALLEL MARKET RATES HAVE SHOWN A STEADY UPWARD MOVE. BROKERS BUY DOLLARS FOR 1,190 KIP AND SELL FOR 1,200 KIP; BUY 100 BAHT FOR 5,850 KIP AND SELL FOR 5,950 KIP. AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD ONE BROKER REQUIRED THREE DAYS TO ASSEMBLE \$50,000 FOR A SINGLE TRANSACTION, AT END PERIOD THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT NO LARGE AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.

3. UNOFFICIAL DATA FROM CHAMBER COMMERCE INDICATE COMMERCIAL IMPORTS PASSING THROUGH CUSTOMS IN AUG WERE 30 PERCENT OF AVERAGE MONTHLY VOLUME

JAN-JUNE 1974. CEMENT, RE-INFORCING ROD, AND CORRUGATED ROOFING WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY AND LOCAL PURCHASES REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS FROM DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE. BEER, WHISKEY, AND CIGARETTES HAD FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 07011 111152Z

PRICE INCREASES, WHILE RADIOS, FISH SAUCE, AND WATCHES REGISTERED

FIRST INCREASE SINCE FEBRUARY. MERCHANTS INDICATE THEY ARE NOT
RESTOCKING AND LOW VOLUME OF BUSINESS ONLY REASON FOR STOCKS STILL
BEING AVAILABLE.

4. COMMERCIAL MARKET RICE PRICES REMAINED UNCHANGED BUT
GOVERNMENT SALES (NOW 45 PERCENT OF MARKET) WERE AT SLIGHTLY LOWER
PRICES. AMPLE SUPPLY OF FISH DEPRESSED PRICE BY 27 PERCENT, CAUSING
DROP IN NON-RICE INDEX. PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE IN USAID INDEX SINCE:

	SEPT 3	JULY 17	END 73
GENERAL INDEX	(-3.9)	9.7	46.7
RICE INDEX	(-0.4)	25.7	74.2
NON-RICE INDEX	(-4.9)	5.5	39.8

5. DECONTROL FOLLOWING 9/11/75.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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